

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

MAE # 0700683504

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Christian Royer House

AND/OR COMMON

Brethren Meeting House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fridinger Mill Road, at the intersection with

CITY, TOWN Old Bachman's Valley Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Westminster

☒ VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Carroll

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☐ DISTRICT☐ PUBLIC☒ OCCUPIED☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ BUILDING(S)☒ PRIVATE☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ STRUCTURE☐ BOTH☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ SITE**PUBLIC ACQUISITION****ACCESSIBLE**☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECT☐ IN PROCESS☒ YES RESTRICTED☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ BEING CONSIDERED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ NO☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Jack C. & Jane G. Knox

STREET & NUMBER

817 Fridinger Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 655

Folio #: 296

STREET & NUMBER

225 N. Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CARR-62

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Christian Royer House is located at the eastern corner of the intersection of Fridinger Mill Road and Old Bachman's Valley Road, northeast of Westminster, Carroll County, Maryland. Built during the late 1820's to early 1830's, the building was constructed to serve dual functions as a farmhouse and a Church of the Brethren meeting house.

The house is built in a style representative of many farmhouses in Carroll County. It is two stories with a five-bay by two-bay main section and a three-bay long central rear wing. The construction material is brick on a stone foundation. The main facade is laid in Flemish bond; common bond is used elsewhere. There is a wooden box cornice and a tin-covered gable roof. Interior end chimneys are located in the gable ends of the main section and rear wing. The rear wing has a double-tiered inset porch on both sides in the two bays adjoining the main section of the house. The house is built into a bank that slopes away from the main facade so that the foundation story of the rear wing is above ground.

The double entrance or the main facade differs from the typical Carroll County farmhouse of this period. Eight panel doors are located in the second and fourth bays of the first story. The other bays on this facade, the gable end and the outer bays of the rear facade of the main section have six-over-six double hung sash windows. The gable ends have two four-over-two attic windows flanking each chimney stack. There is a full-length, one-story frame porch on the main facade with a curved underside to its roof.

The first floor interior was designed for its dual role as a meeting house through the use of folding, wood-panel partition walls. The plan of the main section has four rooms with an enclosed stairway between the two rear rooms. The folding partitions are made of door-size panels hinged together so they can be pushed back to provide one large room for the Brethren services. These panels resemble the entrance doors in design. Each partition wall has a middle panel which functions as a door. Carpenter locks are found on all interior and exterior doors of the main section. Each room in the house has a fireplace with a wood mantelpiece with turned columns, ornamental friezes of country design and a wood shelf. Small wooden cupboards are built into the open side of the chimney stacks in each room. The first floor rooms also have molded chair rails and window frames.

The rear wing has a large hearth on the first floor and in the basement. Both of these hearths have detached brick bake ovens with connected flues. The bake ovens are located one on top of the other. The first floor bake oven opens onto the southside inset porch while the basement oven opens in the room. The stair to the basement is under the stair in the main section of the house. A corner staircase to the second floor and attic is beside the first floor rear hearth. Other interior features include plaster walls on split lathe, early door and window hardware, and a wide collar rafter roof frame.

See Continuation Sheet #1.

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Westminster

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

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The second floor of the main section is composed of a central hallway with two rooms to each side. Each room has a fireplace with a plain wood mantel and molded chair rails and window frames. The rear wing or the second story has one large room with very worn floor boards at one end, and two small rooms in the far bay off of the inset porches. The only staircase to the attic is located on the far wall of the rear room.

The house is set in a small valley of farmland and intermittent streams which are the source waters of the West Branch of the Patapsco River. The only surviving out-buildings on the property are a late 19th-century corn crib and a large 20th-century barn.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Christian Royer House presents an adaptation of the typical Carroll County farmhouse form, incorporating the function of a Brethren meeting house with the design of a domestic farmhouse. The Brethren (or Society of Dunkers) met in the homes of members during its early years in the United States; however, a house design to facilitate worship services is unusual. The architectural characteristics that differentiate the Christian Royer House are: (1) The double entrance on the main facade similar to that found in meeting house architecture; (2) The folding wood-panel partition walls that open to provide single large space on the first floor; and (3) The extensive kitchen facilities, increased use of interior wood trim, and overall dimensions in comparison to other Carroll County farmhouses of this period.

Christian Royer (born February 25, 1800, near Lancaster, Pennsylvania) was the eldest son of Peter Royer and Anna Roop. His parents settled in Carroll County during the first few years of the 19th-century. Peter Royer was a tanner by trade, operated several farms in the vicinity of his home near Meadow Branch, and was a leader in the local Brethren meeting. Christian married Mary Geiman in 1827, and soon after his marriage moved to this combination farmhouse and meeting house built for them.

Christian Royer lived to be sixty-seven years old and gained a reputation in his community as both a farmer and a Brethren minister. In the Royer Family in America, it is stated: "He was perhaps the champion cradler in the county. The scythe of his cradle was sixty-three inches in length and he could cut a twelve-foot swath. On one occasion he cut a twenty-acre oat field in two days. He always led the cradlers." It continues: "He was a minister in the Church of the Brethren, was never ordained to the eldership, nor was he a very able speaker. He was wise in counsel, well versed in Scripture and a good German scholar. He was a man famous for his charity, which reputation was not confined to his immediate neighborhood but was generally known throughout the county." (page 187).

The religious, social and community life shown in the history of the Royer family follows a pattern typical to the early settlement of Carroll County. The integration of religion with family and farm life was a predominant feature of this region and provided a foundation for the growth and progress of the community. In the Christian Royer House, some of these relationships are reflected in its architecture, and thus it presents in a physical form some of the traditions basic to the county's history.

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Westminster
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Francis, Rev., J. G. The Royer Family in America. Lebanon, Pennsylvania:
by the author, 1928.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Land Records of Carroll and Frederick Counties.

Henry, J. Maurice. History of the Church of the Brethren in Maryland. Elgin, Illinois: Brethren Publishing House, 1936.

Roop, William, E. History of Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren. Pamphlet in the collection of the Historical Society of Carroll County, Maryland, Westminster.

See Continuation Sheet #2.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph Getty

ORGANIZATION

DATE

4/27/77

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

301-374-2605

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Manchester

Maryland 21102

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

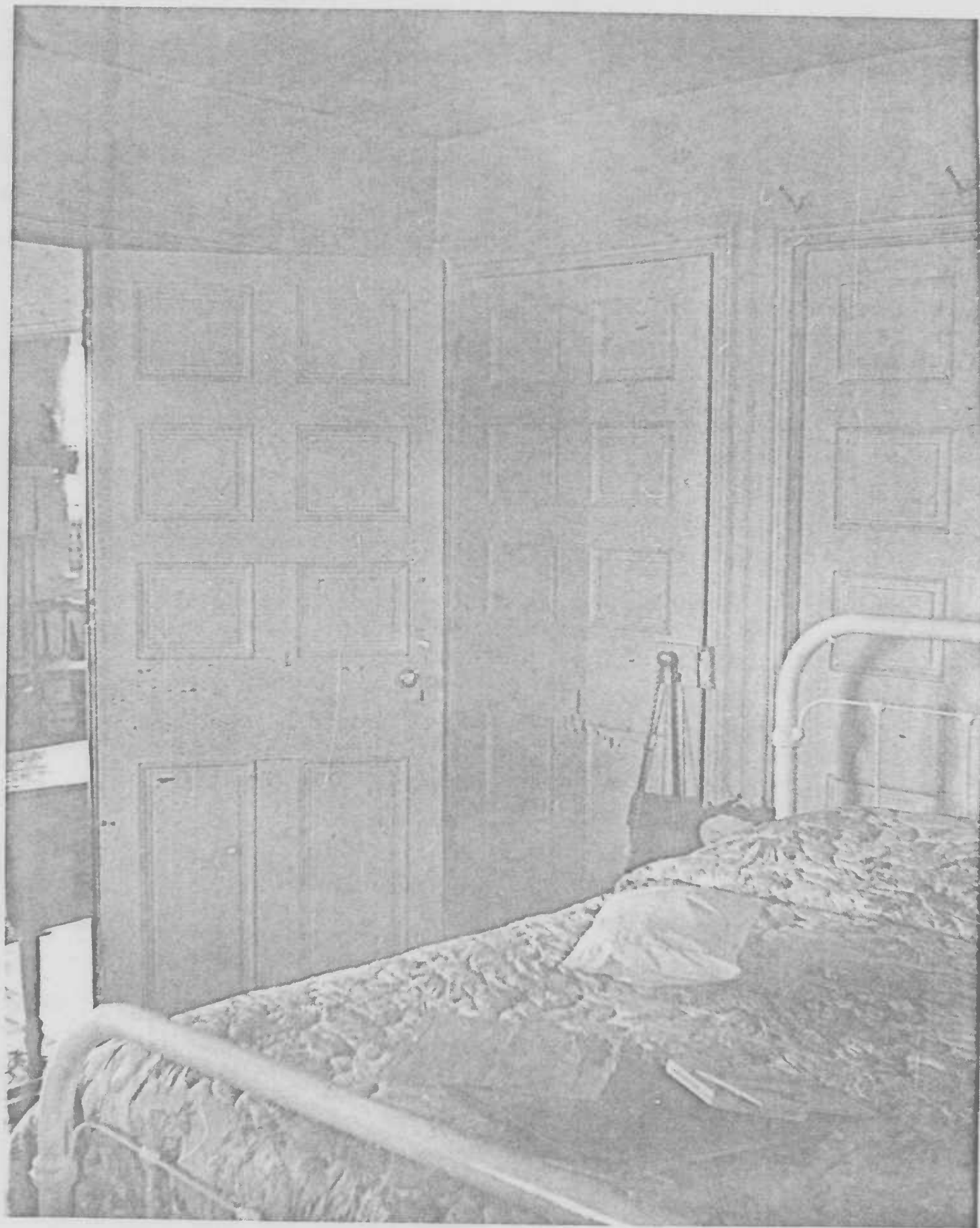
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CARR-68





CARR

Christian Royer House
s.e. elevation

April 1977

J. Getty

CARR-68